

For immediate release

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**Mayor, City Council, Neighborhood Leaders Launch
Citizens for Strong Neighborhoods and Good Jobs**

(Columbus) Neighborhood leaders joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman and City Council members today to launch Citizens for Strong Neighborhoods and Good Jobs, which will advance the \$1.66 billion, 6-issue, 2008 Voted Bond Package that will be on the November 4 ballot. With voter approval, Issues 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 will drive new investment into neighborhoods and to create thousands of new jobs in construction and in growing private industries.

“This bipartisan effort is joined by citizens from every neighborhood—North, South, East, West,” Mayor Coleman said. “That’s because Issues 14-19 will strengthen every neighborhood and create jobs throughout the City without a tax increase.”

Citizens for Strong Neighborhoods and Good Jobs is co-chaired by Mayor Coleman, all seven members of City Council, City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian, City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer and County Engineer Dean Ringle. The campaign committee consists of at least 25 neighborhood leaders throughout the City of Columbus.

“Tough economic times demand strategic and deliberate decisions,” said City Council President Pro Tem Kevin Boyce, chair of the Finance Committee. “This bond package allows us to strategically apply public dollars to the very basic needs of our citizens.”

Voter approval allows the city to borrow money through the sale of City bonds to finance large capital projects over an extended period of time, similar to a citizen's purchase of a home. The City of Columbus is the only large city in the United States that has a AAA Bond Rating, which combined with voter approval, allows the City to finance more projects with less dollars and no new taxes. With voter approval, almost \$30 million will be saved allowing the City to do more neighborhood projects.

“The City of Columbus continues to make a significant investment in our utilities infrastructure,” said Councilman Andrew J. Ginther, chair of the Utilities Committee. “The passage of the Voted Bond Package will allow us to improve our current level of service for decades to come.”

\$1.1 billion of the bond package will be invested in public utilities projects to protect Central Ohio's drinking water supply, while cleaning up local rivers and streams and to put the City into compliance with consent orders signed with the State of Ohio that mandate improvements to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and combined sewer overflows. The City will invest approximately \$432 million in key neighborhood projects such as: new sidewalks, road resurfacing, new fire stations, new health centers, and

new recreation centers. An additional \$124 million of the bond package will leverage private sector investment of \$702 million and create new jobs in key job centers including: Children's Hospital, Techneglas, Netjets and MidOhio Oncology.

“In hard times, we have leadership that is looking outside of the box, looking for ways that we can have a better quality of life,” said Joyce Hughes, president of the Weiland Park Civic Association and member of the campaign committee.

An analysis performed by the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce estimates this bond package will support an average of 5,500 jobs within the region each year over the next five years and generate \$3 billion for the local economy. For every \$100 million invested by the City, \$181 million is generated for the local economy.

The six issues that will appear on the ballot are: Issue 14, Safety and Health (\$86.1 million); Issue 15, Streets and Highways (\$345.6 million); Issue 16, Water (\$524.7 million); Issue 17, Refuse Collection (\$32.2 million); Issue 18, Sanitary Sewers (\$551.9 million); and Issue 19, Recreation and Parks (\$124.2 million).